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1 July 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT : Personnel Ceiling

1. Just before leaving for New York, I was informed of the recommendation of Mr. Taber to the Director of the Budget freezing the number of personnel in the Agency as of 1 July 1953, which gives me great concern.

2. The importance of applying scientific and technical knowledge to the ever increasing problems of intelligence is obvious, but outside of ourselves few people realize that the quality of technical work is fundamentally dependent on the quality of technical personnel doing it and that securing competent technical personnel is one of our most difficult tasks.

3. We have now succeeded in establishing a system of selecting and recruiting top-flight talent, which while necessarily slow and arduous, is nevertheless producing good results. I fear that if this procedure were disrupted at this time, we would lose one of our chief objectives - building up our technical competency - and we would seriously jeopardize our most valuable sources of supply of technical personnel for the future.

4. I am sure you have a difficult task before you, as I well realize from prior experience of this kind when we established the Office of Naval Research. If I can be of any assistance in discussing this matter with representatives of the Bureau of the Budget, I shall be only too glad to do so.

JOB NO. _____ BOX NO. _____ FILE NO. _____ DOC. NO. 27 NO CHANGE
IN CLASS/ DECLASS/ CLASS CHANGED TO: TS S C RET. INFO.
NEXT REV DATE - REV DATE 28-6-79 PERMUTED 43/12 TYPE DOC. 02
NO. PGS / CREATION DATE _____ ORG COM _____ ORG CLASS S
REV CLASS / REV COORD. - AUTH: _____

TSS/OC:ldef/jel (1 July 1953)

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